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# Israel denies envoy recall in spy case

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JERUSALEM, Israel — Two Israeli diplomats who returned home after the arrest of Jonathan Pollard may go back to the United States to talk to federal investigators.

A government source told The Washington Times yesterday that the two diplomats had not been recalled by Israel from their posts in Washington and New York, but had returned to take part in Israel's own investigation of the affair. Israel was considering sending one or both of the men back to the United States, the source said.

The two diplomats are Ilan Ravid, deputy science attache at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, and Yossi Yagur, the consul for science at the Israeli Consulate in New York.

Mr. Pollard allegedly passed classified scientific documents to Israel. The return of the two science specialists to Israel at this time reportedly infuriated the Americans. They let the Israelis know in no uncertain terms that they expected more cooperation.

The government source said Israel was considering having Mr. Ravid and Mr. Yagur return to the United States to "talk" to the Justice Department. Under no condition,

however, would Israel consent to the men submitting to a judicial investigation, the source said. Both Mr. Ravid and Mr. Yagur have diplomatic immunity.

Meanwhile, The Washington Times has learned that Israel has passed on some of the findings of its investigation to the United States. It has promised to step up its cooperation with the United States in uncovering details of the affair.

Israeli officials indicated that they will return to the United States certain classified documents that were allegedly provided by Pollard.

The decision to cooperate more fully with the United States was reached yesterday at a special meeting of Israel's top ministers, following complaints from Washington that Israel was not being helpful enough. At this meeting, the ministers decided to communicate to the United States the information learned here thus far.

Among conclusions drawn at the closed meeting was that Israel had better speed up its investigation, as the United States felt it was taking an inordinate amount of time.

Later in the day, however, Prime Minister Shimon Peres said on Israeli television that time was needed to ensure a thorough investigation.

"The conclusions that will be

drawn will be used to prevent mishaps in the future," Mr. Peres said. "This is a question that has to be handled with full responsibility and thoroughness."

Mr. Peres reiterated that Israel and the United States had agreed not to conduct espionage activities in each other's countries.

But the Israeli daily Davar, which is affiliated with Mr. Peres' own Labor Party, reported yesterday that over the past few years Israel uncovered at least five American attempts at spying in Israel.

Quoting "an official source," the newspaper said agents working for the United States had tried to gather intelligence information on Israeli scientific research. It said Israel

had, in each case, warned the United States that it knew about the attempted espionage but took no further action because of close relations between the two countries.

The Pollard case — and its implications for Israel — remained the top news story in every Israeli paper.

Many editorial writers and columnists wondered how Israel could have become involved in so clumsy an affair. All of the Israeli newspapers quoted The Washington Times' story on the Pollard couple's reported dependence on cocaine.

The Israeli government imposed a blackout on information about the Pollard case, and declined comment

on whether diplomats were recalled in the wake of the case.

Officials in Jerusalem, who spoke on condition they not be identified, said Mr. Peres, Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin were "fully aware of what's going on." The inner Cabinet met yesterday, but its agenda and activities are routinely kept secret.

U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering met with Mr. Peres Wednesday. Details were not revealed, but a Pickering aide said he "wouldn't doubt" the two discussed the case. Mr. Pickering also met with Foreign Ministry director-general David Kimche.

The Ha'aretz newspaper said the United States in the early 1950s "revealed to the whole world" that U.S. intelligence aircraft had discovered Israel was developing a nuclear reactor. In the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, a U.S. spy ship sailed off the Israeli coast and monitored Israeli army moves, Ha'aretz said.

In his interview, Mr. Peres said the investigation into the Pollard case must be conducted "thoroughly and without nervousness" to "prevent hitches in the future."

Asked if he expected the inquiry to prevent future Israeli espionage activity against the United States, Mr. Peres replied: "You have put it very nicely."